

TALES OF TRAGIC TRUNKS.

The other day I had a highly interesting chat with an old Paris magistrate, which will bear reproduction.

"Michel Eyraud, of whom all the world is talking," said he, "is only a copyist, a plagiarist and a fraud. The packing in the trunk of his victim's corpse and the transfer of the funeral package to Lyon—all that is but ancient history and offers nothing very bold, very original or very new. Many a scoundrel, before the vulgar stranger of the Rue Tronson-Ducoudray, had employed that method of causing the disappearance of the trace of a crime identical with that which wiped the notary Gouffe from the land of the living and of pleasure-seekers."

"Why, more than a hundred years ago, in the morning of February 3, 1777, a small man, with a wan and wrinkled face, wearing after the fashion of the day a lilac-hued overcoat in the English style and carrying in his hand a gold-headed cane, was passing along the narrow Rue de la Mortellerie, in the neighborhood of the Hotel de Ville. At the junction of the Rue Geoffroy-l'Asnier and des Nonnains-d'Yver, he noticed upon the front of a house this placard: 'Cellar to Rent.' He immediately entered the house and came out to minutes later, with a satisfied and jubilant air, while the proprietress of the building—a certain Madame Masson, wife of a former register of the civil depot of the Chatelet—said to one of her neighbors:

"I have just rented my cellar to that person for the storage of Spanish wine, which he has no room for at his place."

"The next day the same small man returned to the Rue de la Mortellerie. He accompanied a dray on which was a cask and a large trunk—conveyed on a big piece of canvas. They were lowered into the cellar by the drayman, a charcoal dealer of Port Saint Paul, who was passing and willingly lent a hand, and a water carrier who lived in the house."

"Some time afterwards, the rumor spread through Paris of the disappearance of one Madame de la Motte, wife of Sieur Saint-Faust de la Motte, ex-groom of the grand stable of his majesty. That lady, at the time she had ceased to be seen, lived at the house of a grocer of the Rue Beauchamp, named Desruais, to whom she had recently sold a piece of land she possessed near Villeneuve-le-Roi-les-Bains."

"Desruais was arrested. One of his creditors recollected, having met him in the Rue de la Mortellerie, walking behind a huge trunk conveyed by a dray. On her side, Madame Masson had spoken to the commissary of police of her quarter concerning the renter of her cellar, whom she had not seen since."

"The officers of justice appeared upon the spot. The door of the cellar was broken open. The trunk was found in a little nook beneath the stairway. It contained the corpse of a woman covered only with chemise; the head was sewed up in a bit of colored silk."

"The body was recognized by its earrings with pendants as that of Madame de la Motte."

"Desruais had poisoned her so as to avoid paying her the price of the land he had purchased from her."

"The wretch was executed on the Place de Greve May 6 following."

"In 1808 a butcher of the environs of Melun, named Lepinois, drew one of his creditors into an ambush, slaughtered and bled him like an ox, then shut him up in a trunk, which he shipped to Paris in a vessel, marked 'Salted meat.'"

"Lepinois was executed."

"It was likewise in a trunk of English origin that in 1817, a Breton, was discovered the torso and the head of a man of Marseilles, who quitted that city a fortnight before in company with two foreigners. The latter were never captured."

"In 1833 the authorities of Lille were informed of the disappearance of a woman named Klotz, married to a Belgian workman. The officers went to the house of the latter, whom they found seated on an old trunk of small dimensions, calmly smoking his pipe. They demanded of him where his wife was."

"She's not far off, that's sure," he answered, tranquilly.

"She was in the trunk, where he had placed her after having killed her in a fit of rage. At the court of assizes astonishment was expressed that he had been able to pack the unfortunate woman away in such a small space."

"On Monsieur the President," replied the murderer, "I'll bet that there was yet six inches to spare!"

"Klotz was sentenced to hard labor for life."

"On April 23, 1842, a curious throng had invaded the courtyard of the Messageries Generales at Orleans: the Procureur du Roi, a commissary of police, several officers and some gentlemen had, in a descent upon the baggage shed belonging to that establishment."

"While the Procureur du Roi was looking over the register of departures, a certain Bernard, who kept in the Rue de la Halle, the Hotel de France, approached and catching sight of an enormous trunk lying on the floor, said:

"That's it!"

"They broke the lock of the trunk. It contained a roll of baggage. He unfolded and they perceived two human legs detached from a mutilated body placed beneath these bloody fragments. The corpse was examined and one of those present exclaimed:

"It is, indeed, our comrade of the bank, our poor Boisselier!"

"The latter had gone out to make collections on the morning of the previous day. The bank people were amazed at not seeing him return in the evening. They made inquiries and the Boisselier kept company with individuals of doubtful morality, among others a certain Montely, the agent of an insurance company of Saint-Germain-Laye."

"It was this Montely who had lured Boisselier into a chamber of the Hotel de l'Europe, where he had cut his throat in order to get possession of his wallet and sack and then carried up the corpse of his victim to pack it in a trunk which he had afterwards had carried to the Messageries to be transported to Toulouse."

"Montely confessed his crime."

"The records state that he underwent capital punishment with the repentance, the courage and the resignation of a Christian."

ceive the body of the milk-woman, Gillet."

The old magistrate had completely made out his case and fully established his charge that Eyraud had simply followed in the footsteps of other murderers. —Gaston Gavarni in Salt Lake Tribune.

COLD WEATHER HINTS.

The Means of Preventing Much Dreaded Pneumonia.

From the Boston Herald.

A "Constant Reader" asks if one can do enough in the way of preventing pneumonia?

Among the diseases prevalent in cold weather there are but few which are less preventable; that is, in so far as is known. There are a number of theories as to the causation of this disease, but none of them have been firmly established. Whether or not it is induced by exposure, it is very evident that after such experience the lungs are in the most favorable condition for pneumonia. And it has been pretty clearly shown that exposure to intense cold, dry air, is most to be dreaded, and especially after the weather has been very damp. As, for instance, if it has been warm during the day and rains the night following, and clears off cold, with very dry air, then pneumonia is very likely to be prevalent for a week or two afterward. Hence it follows that when such changes occur unusual precautions should be taken against catching cold.

Without doubt the heating arrangements of houses, offices, work-shops, etc., influence not a little the liability of pneumonia. And dry heat acts unfavorably upon the air passages, and predisposes to the disease. Persons who are many hours each day in rooms heated by steam pipes, which furnish very dry heat, would doubtless be found, upon investigation, to be among the most frequent victims of pneumonia. Probably gas stoves furnish as dry heat as any apparatus, and for this reason they ought not to be used where any other system is possible.

Very likely by the use of alcoholic drinks one may increase his susceptibility to pneumonia; most certainly they are capable of rendering him much more liable to take cold. Alcohol is almost entirely devoid of nutritive value, and is a producer, but after its effects have passed off the nervous system is left more or less depressed by it, and the body is less resistant to cold.

Considering these few facts, the means of prevention which suggest themselves are due precautions when under exposure and special care after radical changes in the weather. The air breathed should be as pure as possible at all times. When exposed habitually to a very dry heat the use of ventilation is most urgent, and some means should be found to render the hot air sufficiently moist. This can generally be done by keeping a pan of water on the register of stoves.

Temperance in eating or drinking also suggests itself when considering the question of the prevention of pneumonia. Were those who suffer most from exposure and are the most frequent victims of "colds" carefully studied, undoubtedly it would be found that they are overindulgent in eating and drinking, but little exercise, or that they subsisted largely upon foods which were too great a tax upon digestion. Let these organs be kept strong and healthy and "cold" will be a rare experience; whereas if they are overworked and weak, it will be a frequently recurring one.

A word as to the symptoms of pneumonia. In some cases they are very marked, while in others they are vague and ill defined. Laymen who have not had experience in the disease are extremely unlikely even to suspect its presence except in typical cases.

Pneumonia may attack only a small portion of the lung, and remain limited to that spot, in which event the patient is not very ill. Probably the disease is seldom extensive at once. But it is nature to spread, and it is easily induced to do by a variety of influences.

Were every person attacked with this disease at once to take to his room and guard himself carefully from exposure for a week at least afterward, the chances are that in the infinite majority of cases the disease would run a mild course and remain limited to a small portion of the lung.

But, as a rule, when persons are attacked, they assume that the trouble is "nothing but a cold," so they keep up and about for a day or two; in consequence the disease spreads, and a large portion of the lung is involved by it.

Pneumonia has a preference for the right lung, although, of course, it not infrequently attacks the other. One of the symptoms which it gives rise to is a stitching pain near the nipple. This is not constant, or, in other words, it is not very severe in a few cases; while in others it is present it is so troubling that the patient does not mention it.

If much of the lung is involved by pneumonia the breathing is seriously affected, but if the pneumonia spot is small the breathing is but slightly hindered, and marked that it would be in an attack of bronchitis.

The "rusty sputa" is one of the most convincing signs of pneumonia. The coughed up matter has a reddish tinge, light or dark, and because it looks as though iron rust had been used as a coloring it is called "rusty."

But if this symptom is present and not very pronounced it is not very likely to be detected. Some patients swallow their sputa unless the quantity is considerable. Again, where a handkerchief of cloth is used the rusty tinge will scarcely be deep enough to color it to a noticeable extent if only a small portion of the lung is involved.

As for fever, high pulse, etc., which are signs of pneumonia, they are often nearly or quite, as marked in simple attacks which come under the head of colds.

From this it is easy to see that attacks of pneumonia, during the early stage, are extremely likely to be misapprehended by except physicians. To draw correct conclusions from this is easy.

A person attacked by what appears to be a very severe cold should call in his physician—not attempt to treat himself, in the trouble is not as indicated he will have incurred but a slight expense, which will bring ample returns in lessened discomfort. Whereas, if he happens to have pneumonia prompt treatment will multiply his chances of recovery many fold.

The Great Temple at Tanjore.

W. S. Caine in Pall Mall Budget.

We are then taken to see the great temple, the finest in all India, the only important Dravidian temple which was conceived as a whole on a well-defined plan persevered in without alteration to its completion. It is erected during the early part of the fourteenth century. It is in perfect preservation. Its great pagoda, rising 265 feet into the air, from a base of 96 feet square, is crowned with a huge circular solid dome, a monolith of granite, which was placed by forced labor up an inclined plane five miles long, built for the purpose.

Facing the pagoda is the famous stone bull, cut from a single block of syenite. This mass of rock must have been at least 20 feet long, 14 feet wide and 9 feet thick when cut from the quarry, and was brought a distance of 400 miles. The main gateway of the temple is very handsome and was completed in A. D. 1333.

Stranger in Washington—"What has happened—what is all that noise about?" Resident—"O, that's General Greely celebrating—one of his weather forecasts has come true."—New York Sun.

HANDLES 'EM SCIENTIFICALLY.

A San Diego Coroner Who Works a Case-daver for All it is Worth.

From the San Francisco Examiner.

"The fact of it is," said old Doctor McCracken, the coroner of San Diego, as he was paying a fraternal visit to our local morgue the other day, "the cold fact of it is that you coroners up in this section don't really understand your business and how to make it boom for all there is in it, as it were."

"What do you mean?" asked our newly elected official.

"Why, you don't seem to save how to get all there is coming to you out of a case-daver, somehow; don't handle 'em scientifically, so to speak. Now, we do that sort of thing better down our way."

"Do, eh?"

"Yes. For instance, there was a Chinaman killed by smoking opium a few months ago down there. Of course I flew round and had a jury sworn in before you could wink—they come to sometimes, you know—and what with summoning witnesses, testimony, etc., before night I had a bill against the county for \$65.50."

"More than the Chinaman was worth, I should say," said the metropolitan official.

"Wait wait; I dug up the remains from the county burying ground the same night, rushed 'em round to the laboratory and had 'em embalmed all ready for emergencies. Well, about three days after that they had a ghost dance and free fight out at the bigger Indian camp, and so I had the coronial's pigtail cut short, a few feathers twisted in it, and hid him in the bushes out that way. Then I had him found and reported, and as the jury couldn't agree as to the particular tribe the Indian belonged to, I imparted another one—doubtless the fact, don't you see—and gave the papers a rousing good time. It's a great snap to stand in with the reporters, by the way."

"How much did that make?"

"Well, I am about \$240 ahead on the speculation then, so I waited until a lot of Dago emigrants passed up country, and the next day one of 'em was found dropped dead on the road of heart disease—catch on, don't you? Same old corpse with a big felt hat and rawhide boots—pockets full of money. I tapped the taxpayers for about \$175 more that time. Well, I sorter let up for a week after that, and then had the remains doubled up in a packing box and found among the unclaimed freight down at the railroad station. The papers wrote it as a 'Mysterious Murder Case,' and we had a ten days' examination. Lemme see; I think it was \$446.50 the whole thing panned out before we were through that time. How does that strike you?"

"Why, that's nothing, my dear sir, nothing. I haven't got through with that Chinaman yet. When I left home I had just got him nicely wedged in among the branches of a tree in the woods just out of town, dressed in a complete suit of black with an old telescope in his coattail pocket and a pair of big green goggles on his nose, for all the world like one of those Lick observatory cranks. Grapple with the idea, don't you."

"Can't say I do."

"Why, that's the aeronaut party, don't you see? Unknown scientific party fallen out of a balloon. My own design entirely. Splendid, isn't it? The remains are a little worn by this time, I know; but what are you going to do in such an infernally healthy climate as San Diego? I expect to send the old lady and the girls to Europe on that endeavor yet, if I have to wire it together to do it. No, my dear sir, your metropolitan coroners mean well, I know, but what you need is a little more enterprise, ingenuity and—and ginger."

"I'm afraid I do."

"Exactly; but I must hurry up to Bush street and get front seats for this new farce-company that opens to-night. Great place to study up on anatomy, I hear," and giving a late stock broker, who had just been brought in, a punch or two with his cane, the doctor drifted out.

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No. 4—From the west..... 6:30 p. m.

No. 10—From the west..... 8:15 p. m.

Missoula and Helena express..... 12:10 p. m.

DEPARTURES.

No. 1—Pacific mail, west-bound..... 2:00 p. m.

No. 4—Atlantic mail, east-bound..... 6:30 p. m.

No. 110—From the west..... 7:15 a. m.

Missoula and Helena express..... 8:00 a. m.

No. 1 from east arrives Northern Pacific depot, and goes west leaves Montana Union depot, and arrives Northern Pacific depot, No. 1 and 4 local mail.

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NOTICE TO CO-OWNER.

STATE OF MONTANA, COUNTY OF DEER LODGE, January 3, 1901.

To William Wales: You are hereby notified that I have expended \$100 in the year 1900 in labor and improvements upon the Bung Your Eye quartz lode in no organized mining district in Oregon county, Deer Lodge county, Montana, in order to hold said premises under the provisions of section 2324, revised statutes of the United States, being the amount required to hold the same for the year ending December 31, 1900. And if within ninety days from the first publication of this notice you fail or refuse to contribute your proportion of such expenditures as co-owner, your interest in said claim will become the property of the subscriber under said section 2324.

GEORGE GUNN, First published January 4th, 1901.

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